

PS5500.08 CANINE UNITS



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# Program Statement

OPI: CPD  
NUMBER: 5500.08  
DATE: September 17, 1997  
SUBJECT: Canine Units

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE. To provide guidance for implementing and managing canine units located in Bureau facilities.

Within any correctional environment, a major security concern involves controlling illegal narcotics and tracking escapees. It is the Bureau's policy to detect and eliminate the possession of drugs, marijuana or any other unauthorized controlled substance by inmates and to capture and return escapees to custody.

The use of canines by the Bureau and other federal law enforcement agencies has proven to be an effective method for narcotics detection and for tracking escaped inmates. The presence of a canine unit not only aids in locating drugs, drug paraphernalia and escapees, but also serves as a deterrent.

2. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. The expected results of this program are:

a. Trained canine units will be established in certain Bureau institutions and be available to other institutions as needed.

b. Canine units will be used to detect and deter illegal drug use and to search for escapees.

c. Staff handlers and canines will receive appropriate training.

d. Canines will be provided appropriate housing, food, medical care, and exercise.

e. Canine units will not be used in use-of-force situations or for crowd control.

3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED

a. Directive Rescinded

PS 5500.04 Canine Units, Full Service (6/30/92)

b. Directives Referenced

PS 4400.03	Property Management Manual (2/27/96)
PS 5566.04	Use of Force and Application of Restraints on Inmates (7/25/96)
PS 5580.05	Personal Property, Inmate (9/30/96)

4. STANDARDS REFERENCED

a. American Correctional Association 3rd Edition Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions: 3-4184

b. American Correctional Association 3rd Edition Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities: 3-ALDF-3A-18

c. American Correctional Association 2nd Edition Standards for Administration of Correctional Agencies: 2-CO-3A-01

d. American Correctional Association Standards for Adult Correctional Boot Camp Programs: 1 ABC-3A-17

5. PRETRIAL/HOLDOVER PROCEDURES. Procedures required in this Program Statement are applicable to pretrial and holdover inmates.

6. ADMINISTRATION. Regional Directors, in coordination with the Assistant Director, Correctional Programs Division, have the authority to identify one institution within each region to assign a canine unit.

A canine unit is composed of, at a minimum, one canine handler and one dog with multiple abilities, such as tracking and narcotics detection.

Captains have management responsibility for a canine unit. Actual program coordination shall not be delegated below the level of a GS-11 Lieutenant.

Requests for the canine unit's assistance outside the assigned institution must be approved **in advance** by the Warden or Acting Warden.

7. HANDLER SELECTION. The Warden of each institution with an authorized canine unit shall select one handler for each canine. The handler shall only work with the dog originally assigned and should ordinarily not be assigned collateral duties. Another handler may be assigned to feed and service the kennel area if the primary handler is not available.

- ! A handler must make a two year commitment to the program, be 9mm pistol trained, be able to complete the SORT obstacle course, and interact positively with the canine.

- ! The handler must be willing to care for the canine, control it, and get the utmost productivity from the dog. A handler is also required to give clear commands to the canine in the language in which the canine was originally trained.
- ! The handler shall be given a clothing allowance (amount set by policy) each year to purchase blue or gray jumpsuits and/or suitable nickel gray uniform clothing. Safety toe boots shall be worn as protective clothing and shall be furnished to the handler as prescribed in the Property Management Manual.

8. CANINE SELECTION. The Malanois or German Shepherd shall be the only canine breeds authorized. Only passive alert canines with an even temperament shall be purchased.

- ! Any canine purchased must possess, at a minimum, a Schutzhund I title or a Police I title prior to purchase. The Schutzhund or Police title rating identifies the level of training the dog has received in tracking, obedience, and handler protection.

An exception to this requirement is granted for institutions having a canine which was purchased prior to this Program Statement's original issuance on June 30, 1992.

- ! No more than two canines per kennel are authorized.

P Female canines shall be spayed prior to purchase.

P Any selected canine must be at least two years of age, but no older than two and one half years. The hips, teeth, back, and shoulders shall be documented as sound prior to purchase and a birth certificate provided to determine the canine's age at the time of purchase.

P A German Shepherd's spine and hips must be guaranteed for one year and the Malanois canine's spine and hips must be guaranteed for two years.

9. HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES. Each canine handler shall be responsible for the canine's care. Performing routine duties properly will ensure adequate care and will maintain the integrity of the canine program.

- ! A handler shall be responsible for the canines actions and tactical use. A handler must ensure a request for each canine unit's tactical use does not violate policy and will not cause harm to the handler, the canine, or a third party.

A canine team shall coordinate all narcotic activities with the institution SIS office.

Canines shall never be allowed to roam freely inside an institution, on institution property or be trained to respond to any command not learned in a training school.

- ! During the search of a housing unit, the canine shall remain on a leash and inmates shall be clear of the area.
- ! Canine units may be used for escape hunts if approved by the Warden but canines **shall not** be used in use-of-force situations or for crowd control purposes.

If however, due to an unforeseen or uncontrolled situation, a canine becomes involved in a use-of-force situation, then proper notification shall be made and documented in accordance with the Program Statement on Use-of-Force and Application of Restraints.

- ! When the canine must be taken into a public place, a mouth muzzle must be used. A canine shall not be taken into public places unless on official duty.
- ! A handler shall not leave a canine unattended in a vehicle for an extended period of time. When a canine is left in the vehicle, windows must be slightly open for ventilation and the circulation fan turned on. Prolonged isolation will cause discomfort and/or injury to the canine, i.e., leaving a canine in a vehicle, even with the windows slightly open on a hot day, may cause serious injury or death.

A vehicle equipped with a secure partition and an air circulation fan shall be available to the handler, if needed.

- ! A handler shall maintain a daily record of training and tactical operations, medical check-ups, for submission to the Captain or assigned canine unit Lieutenant. All confiscated contraband shall be handled in accordance with the Program Statement on Inmate Personal Property.

#### 10. EMPLOYEE GUIDELINES

- ! Employees not directly assigned to the canine unit shall not enter any building or area that is being searched by the canine unit without the approval of the supervising Lieutenant and canine handler. If an employee inadvertently finds himself or herself in an area where a canine unit is working, he or she shall exit the area quietly and without hesitation.



! Employees should not walk or run in front of a canine unless responding to an emergency situation.

- ! Employees must never make an aggressive gesture towards the dog or handler. At no time shall staff other than the handler attempt to give commands to the canine.
- ! Employees must never attempt to touch, handle, or feed a canine without the handler's approval.
- ! No one, other than the handler, shall attempt to enter or retrieve anything from a canine unit vehicle or kennel if the canine is present.

11. HEALTH, CARE, AND FEEDING

- ! Inmates shall **never** be allowed access to the canine or associated canine unit items such as kennel, food, bedding, etc.
- ! The handler must exercise a canine daily. A small obstacle course with at least four obstacles should be constructed to maintain a high level of fitness.
- ! The amount of daily food consumption shall ensure proper nutrition so the canine stays fit, agile, muscular, and in excellent health.
- ! Each canine shall be housed in a kennel and not at the handler's residence. Kennels shall be constructed with a chain link fence enclosing the perimeter and set on a four foot by 10 foot concrete floor. A small canine housing area constructed of wood or plastic shall be well insulated to maintain a comfortable temperature for the canine.

The kennel should not be elaborate or constructed to allow the canine to become acclimated to the kennel climate and not the outside atmosphere. The canine house should be located in the middle rear of the concrete slab. If more than one canine is maintained in the kennel, a partition shall be installed between each stall to prevent the dogs from agitating each other. In addition, an isolation area should be identified to separate sick or new canines.

- ! The kennel area shall be cleaned daily and the individual stalls cleaned and sanitized with a suitable disinfectant and water solution. Canine handlers shall be responsible for cleaning the kennel.
- ! Each canine shall receive regular medical care to maintain peak condition. This shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- P Maintaining health and immunization records on yearly rabies, distemper, and parvo shots. Each canine must be given medical examinations by a licensed veterinarian semi-annually or when unusual behavior is apparent as a result of illness or injury.
- P Maintaining a veterinarian approved diet and required medication schedule (heart worm pills, vitamins, and any other medication as prescribed).
- ! Access to kennels shall be limited to all but staff associated with the canine unit. A logbook shall be maintained at the kennel and all persons entering shall sign in and out.
- ! The working life of the canine, under normal conditions, should be eight to 10 years. After that time, the usefulness of the animal must be assessed. If the canine is determined medically unfit or unhealthy, the dog may be evaluated and put to sleep via lethal injection by a veterinarian.

Handlers who wish to keep the canine, after it has been retired, may submit a request to the Assistant Director, Correctional Programs Division.

12. TRAINING. Each canine handler must be matched and trained with the canine selected by the kennel in order to ensure performance. The entire selection and training process should be accomplished by a single kennel.

- ! Canines will only be trained in narcotics detection, handler protection, and escape hunts.
- ! Entry level training for the canine and handler must be at least 200 hours in duration and the curriculum shall cover:
  - P legal issues,
  - P escape prevention,
  - P contraband detection,
  - P building searches,
  - P guarding,
  - P barking,
  - P control and obedience exercises,
  - P apprehension, and
  - P handler protection.
- ! An approved handler/canine training school must conduct an annual 24 hour recertification. The canine and handler must

complete the training course successfully prior to the  
canine unit's use.

13. TRAINING DOCUMENTATION. The initial handler development and yearly recertification courses are mandatory. Refresher training deemed necessary for the canine and handler must be made available through the kennel which provided the canine.

Training shall be appropriately documented by the Employee Development Specialist and the Captain.

14. PROCUREMENT. Costs connected with the canine units shall be funded by the respective regional office and the institution using cost centers 215 and 315. A canine must be purchased from a kennel approved by the Assistant Director, Correctional Programs Division.

/s/  
Kathleen M. Hawk  
Director